

THE
BEGINNING
AFTER
THE
END

STORY BY
TURTLEME

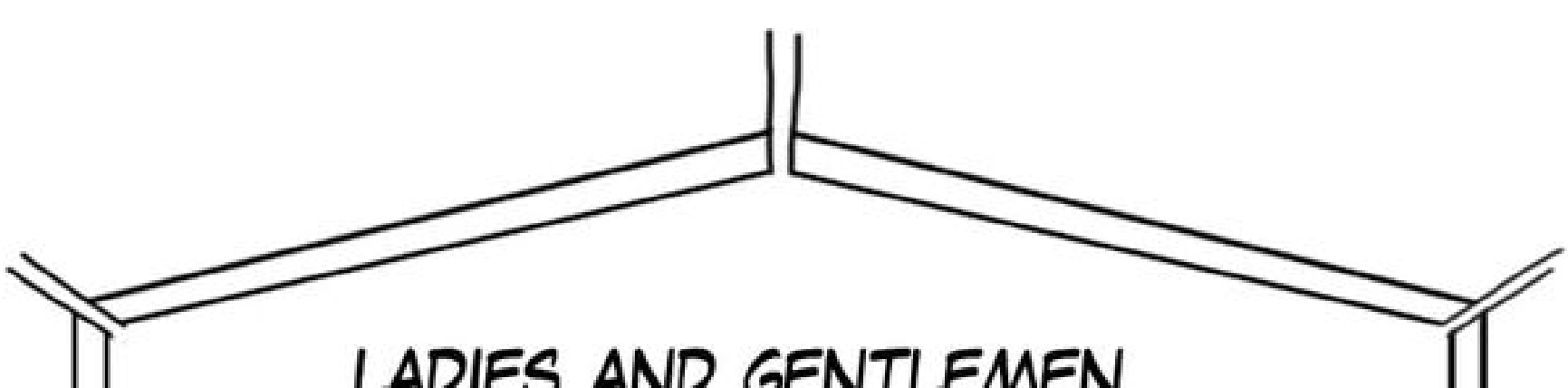
ART BY
FUYUKI23

PRESENTED BY
TAPAS MEDIA

QUALITY CONTROL BY
KISAI ENTERTAINMENT

ASSISTANTS
STORYBOARD/MUNAZA
COLORING/PLOWPLO
3D BACKGROUND/HAMUTAQ
LINING/SERA SWATI

EDITORS
GABRIELLE LUU & YOSI



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
NOBLES AND ADVENTURERS!
MAY I SAY THAT IT IS OF THE HIGHEST
HONOR FOR ME TO BE HERE
TONIGHT!



I PRESUME
ALL OF YOU ESTEEMED
GUESTS HAVE GATHERED HERE
TODAY FOR ONE REASON AND
ONE REASON ONLY.





FOR THE CHANCE TO OBTAIN
ONE OF THE RARE AND VALUABLE
ITEMS IN THIS AUCTION!

YEA A A H!!





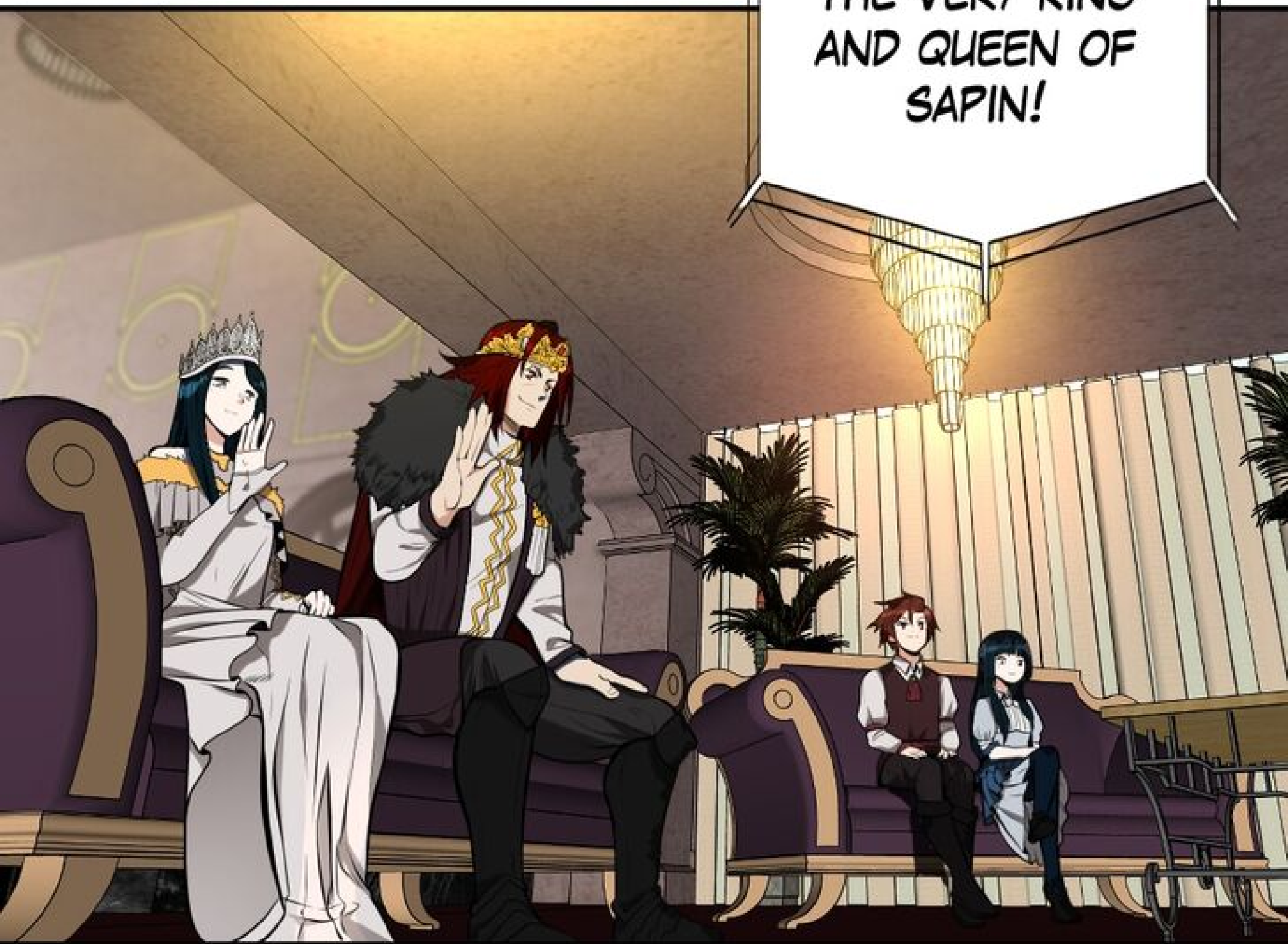
BUT BEFORE WE BEGIN,
IF EVERYONE IN THE AUDIENCE
WOULD KINDLY TURN TO FACE

WOULD KINDLY TURN TO FACE
THE SOUTH.



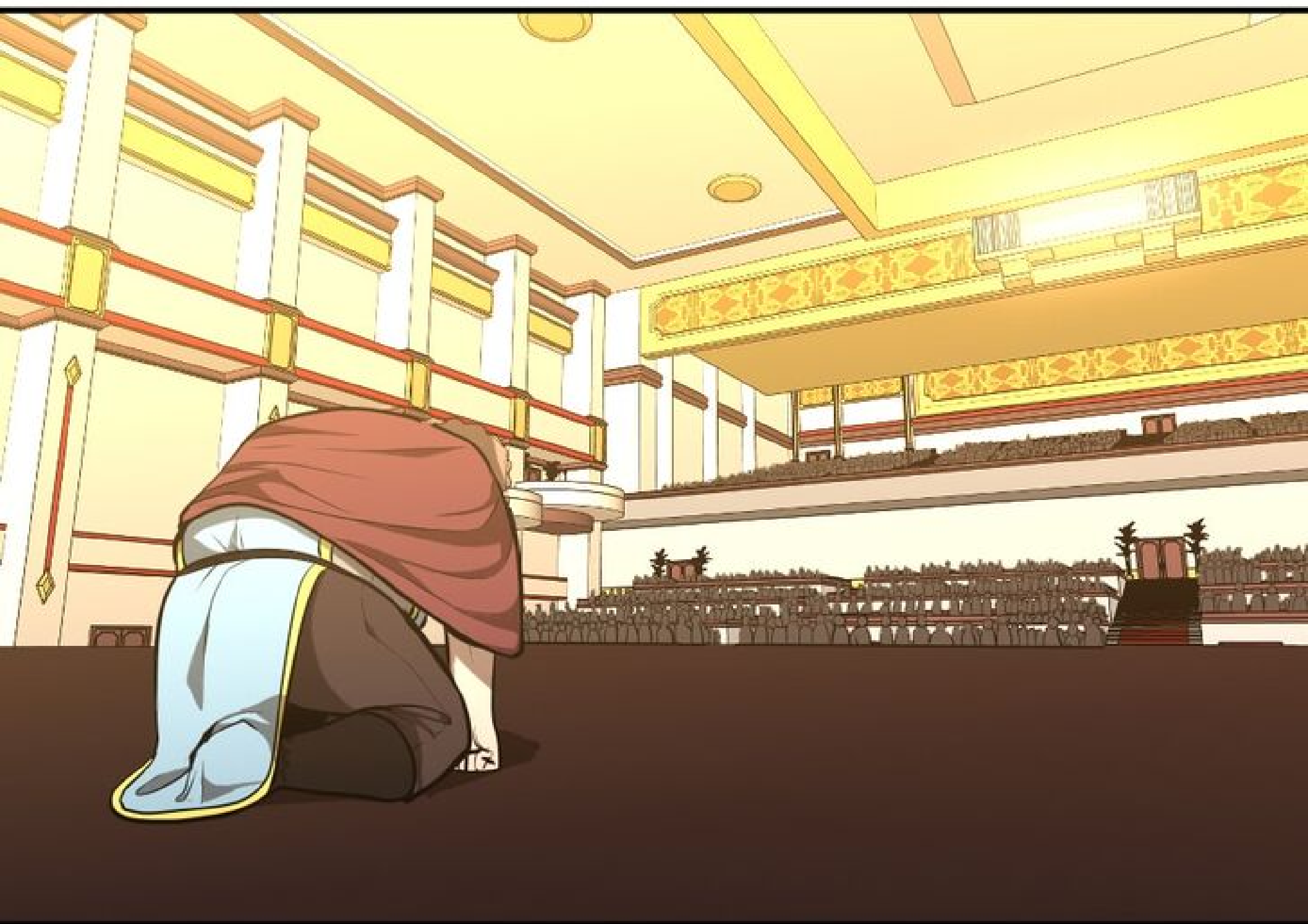
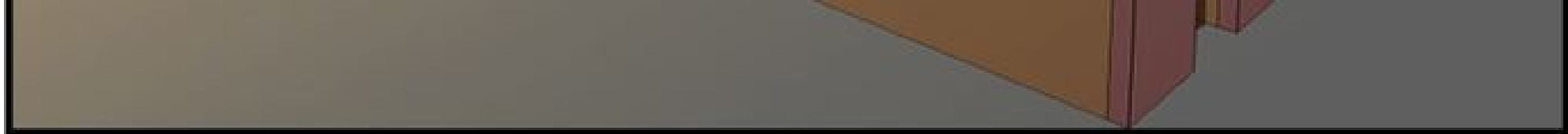
PLEASE JOIN ME IN
WELCOMING A FEW EXCEEDINGLY
IMPORTANT FIGURES WHO HAVE BLESSED
US WITH THEIR PRESENCE...

THE VERY KING
AND QUEEN OF
SAPIN!



BOW





NEXT BUT CERTAINLY
NOT LEAST,



THE MAN
WHO HAS MADE THIS WHOLE
EVENT POSSIBLE!

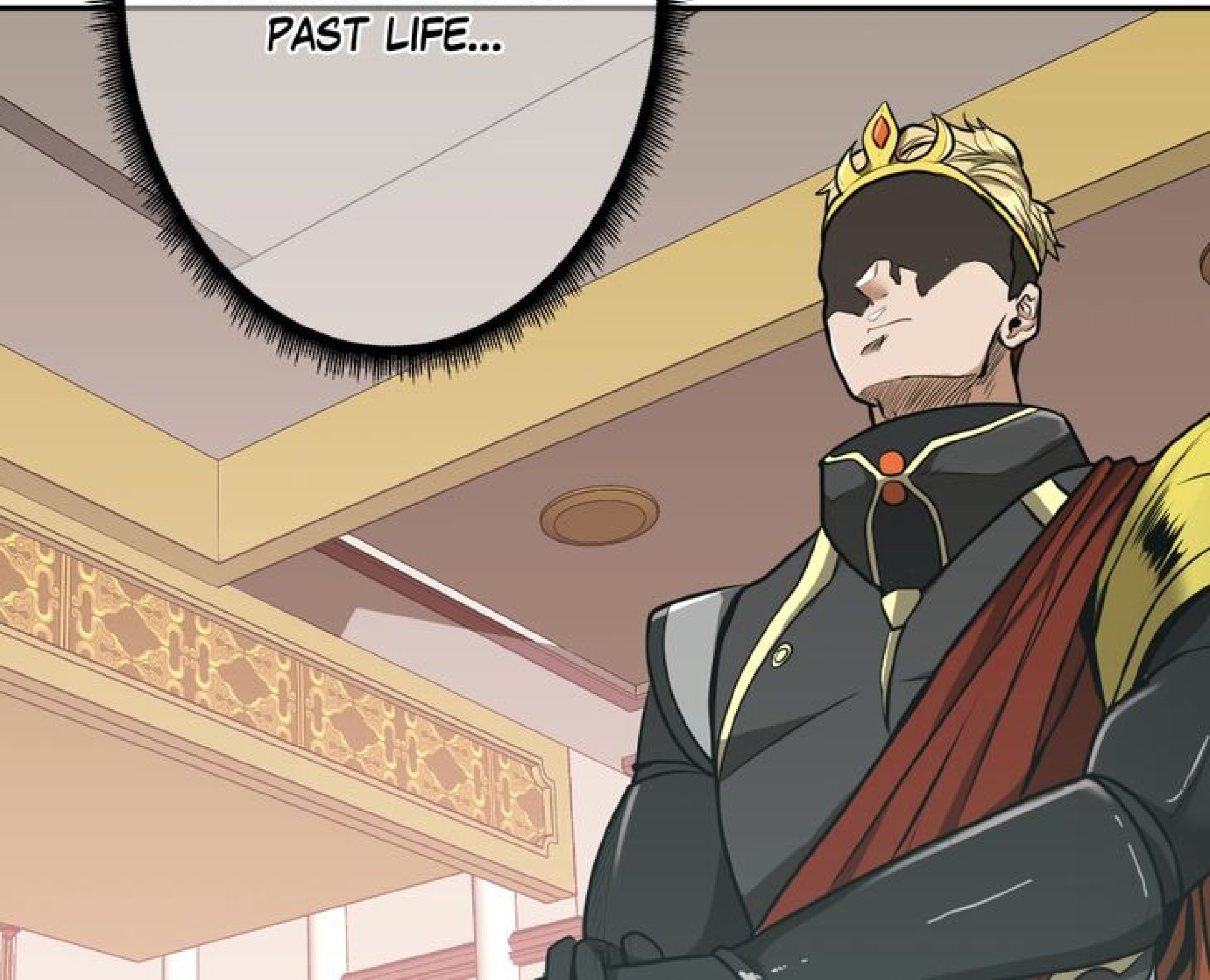
PLEASE GIVE A BIG
ROUND OF APPLAUSE
FOR VINCENT
HELSTEA!



CLAP



THIS SORT OF
REMINDS ME OF MY
PAST LIFE...





NO.
I'M NOT A KING
ANYMORE.

HELL...
I HAVEN'T EVEN GONE
THROUGH PUBERTY YET.



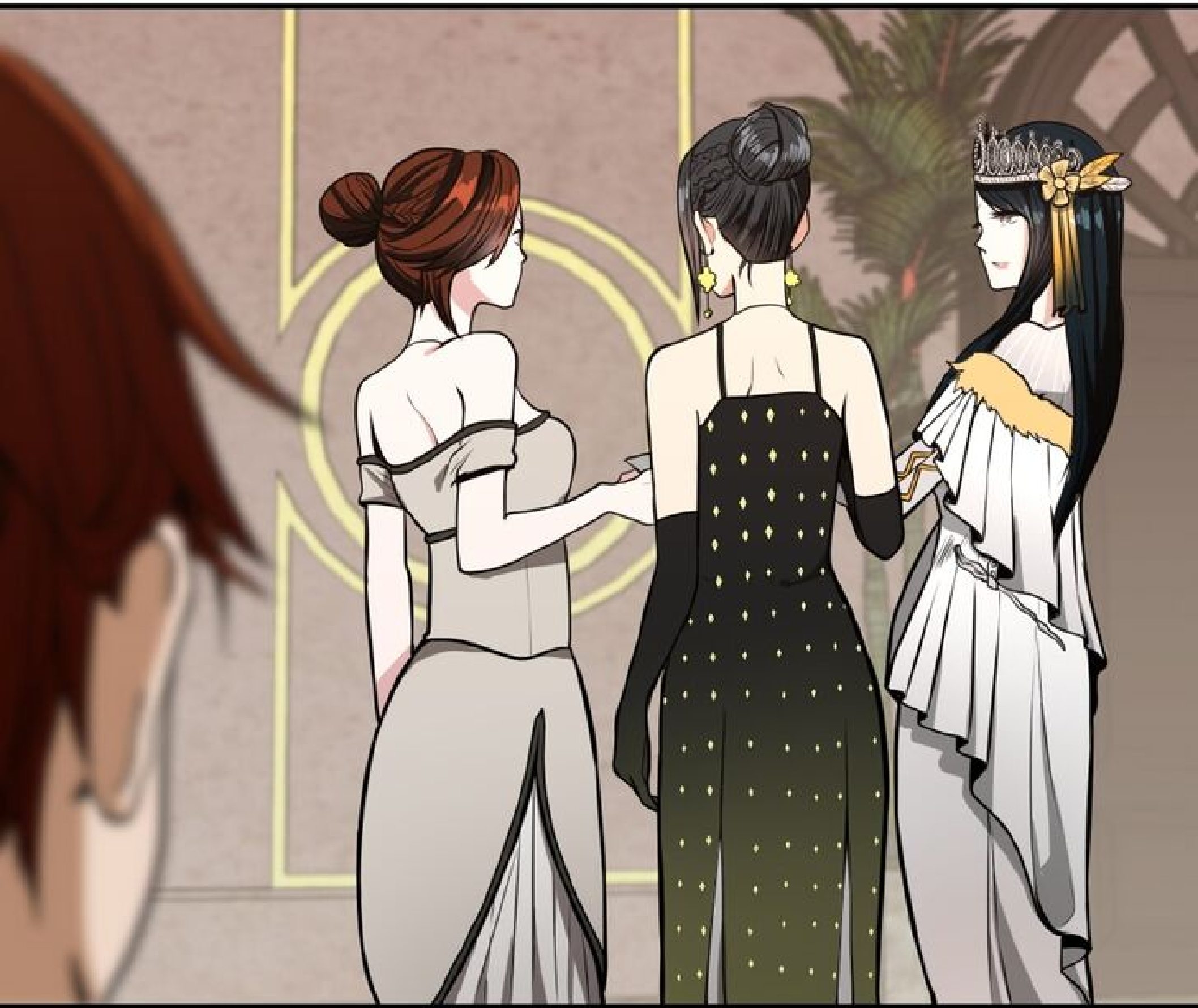




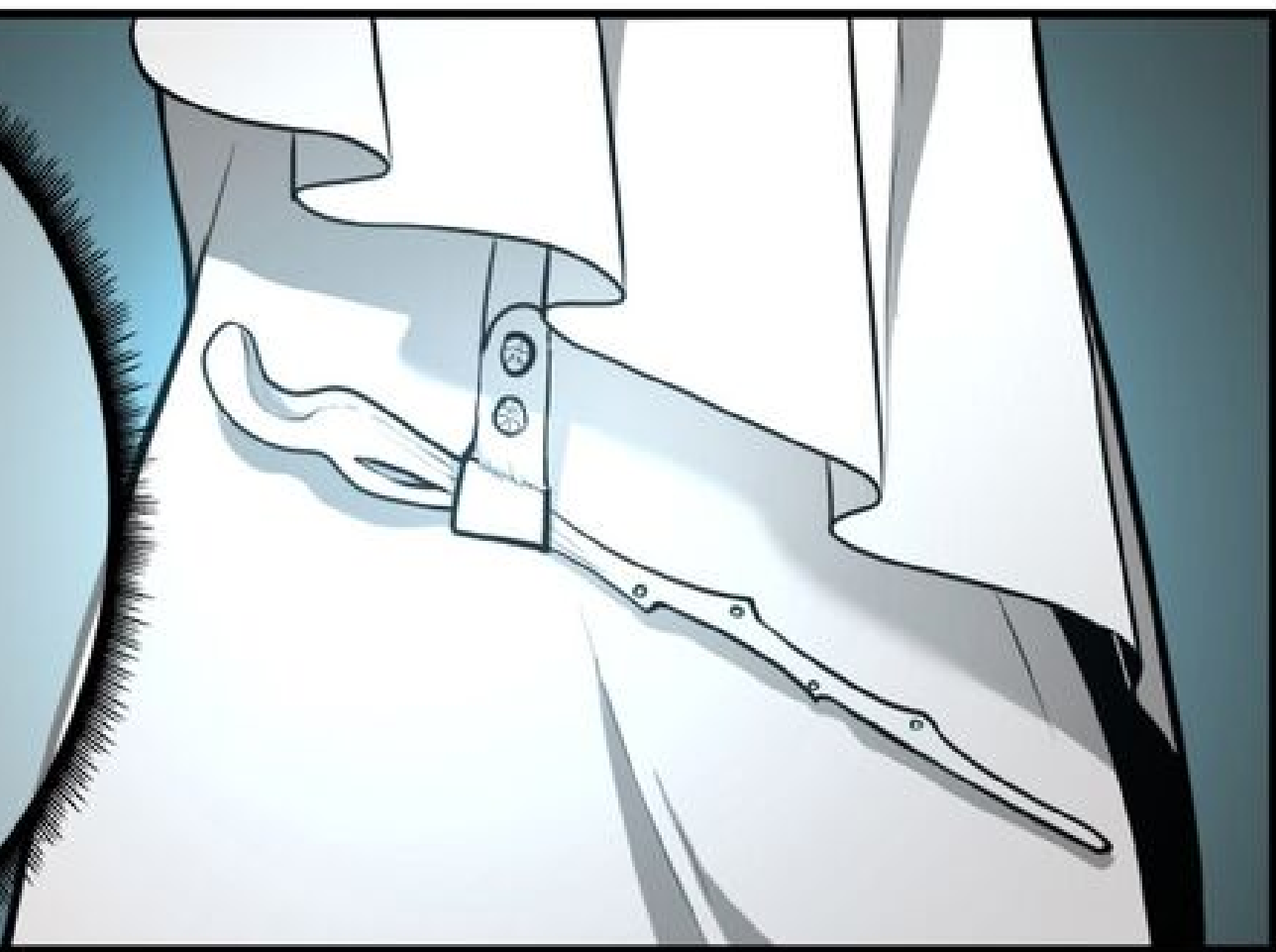
SNUCK ALCOHOL
IN WHEN NO ONE WAS
LOOKING.

GEEZ, STAY STILL
WHILE EATING,
ELLIE.

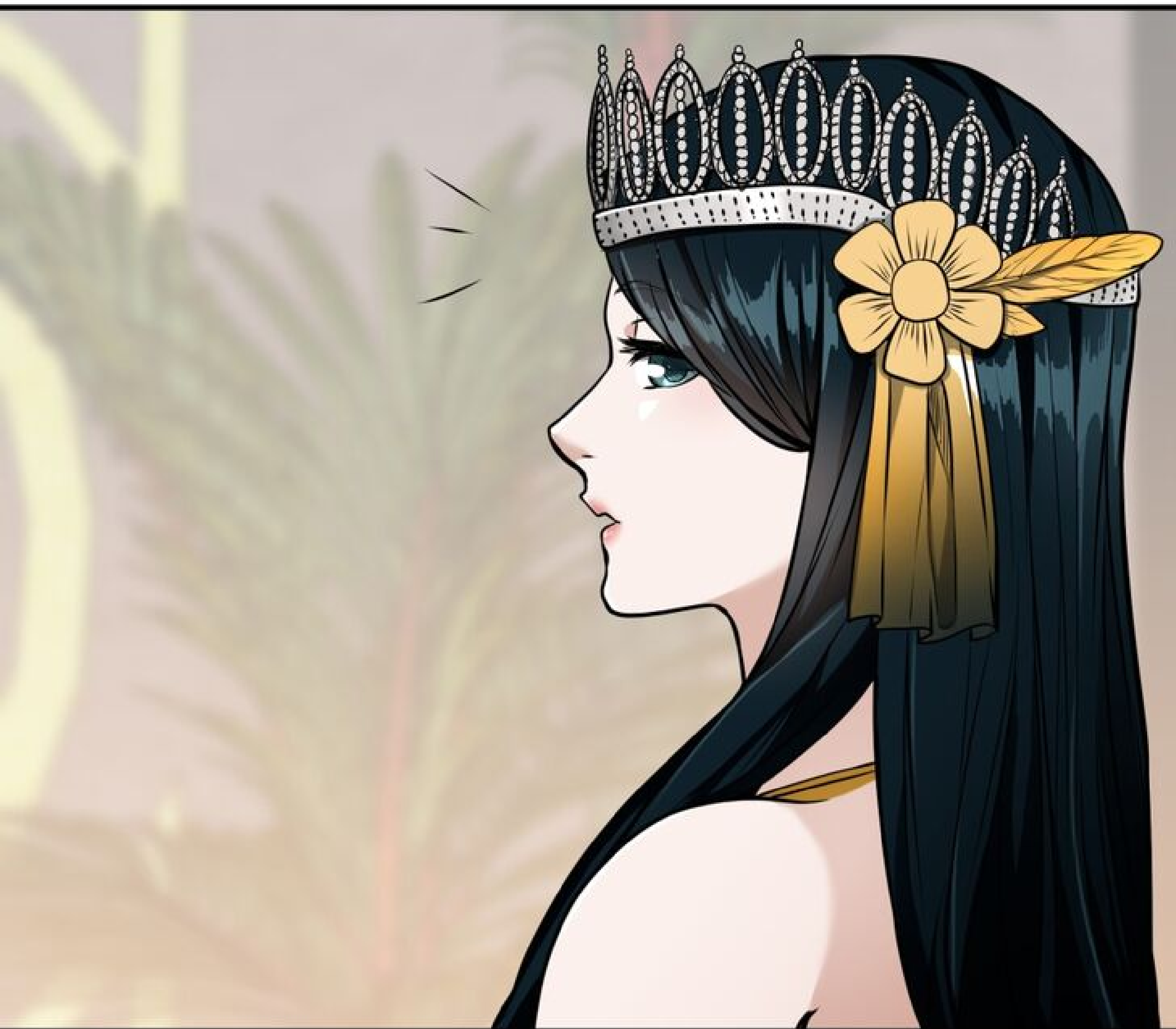




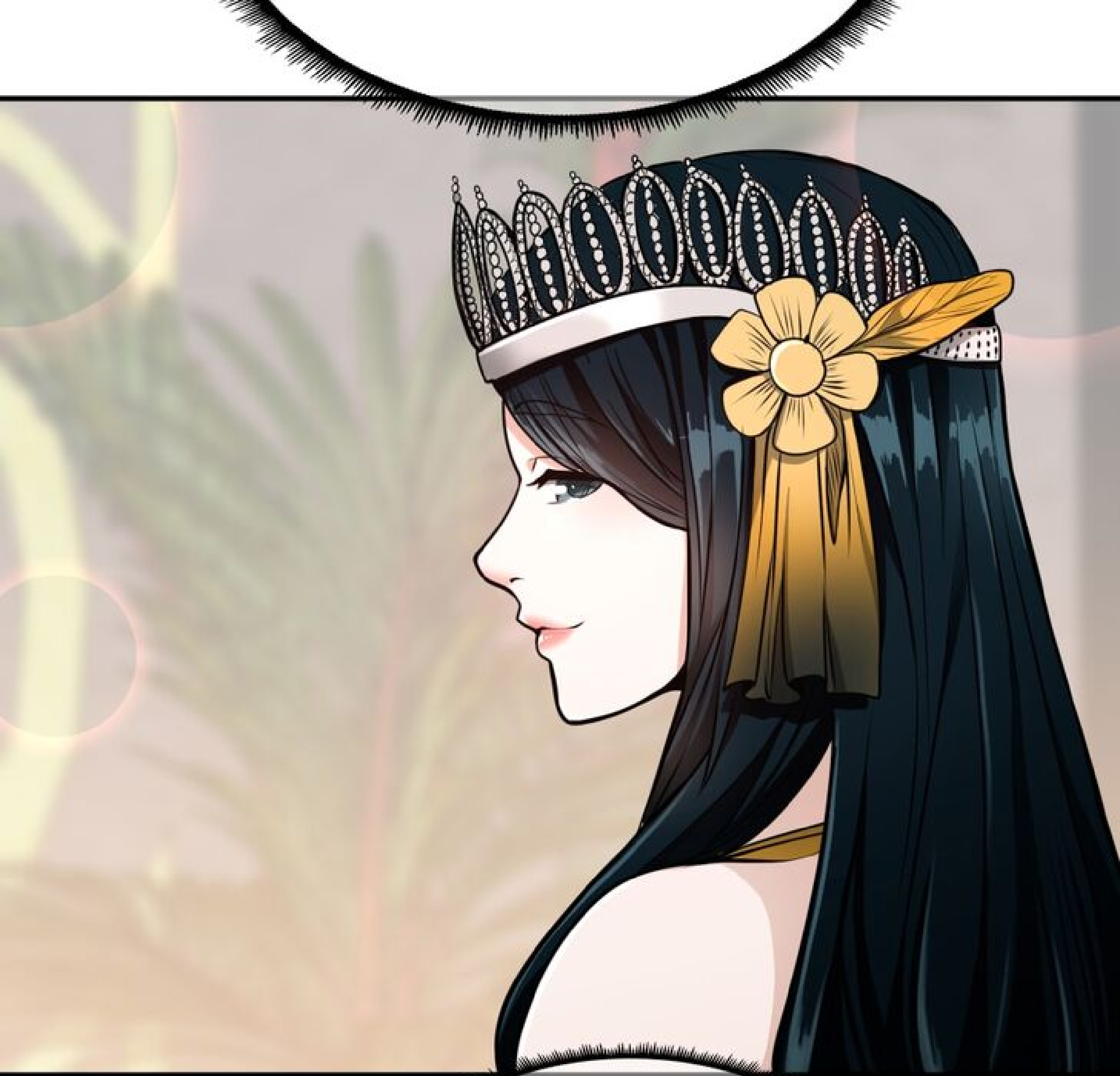
SO SHE'S
A CONJURER.



AND THE FACT THAT I
COULDN'T SENSE HER MANA
MEANS SHE IS EITHER CARRYING
AN ARTIFACT TO HIDE IT
OR...



...SHE'S AT
A LEVEL HIGH ENOUGH
WHERE I CAN'T SENSE IT.



I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT
ABOUT IT BEFORE, BUT IT'S
INTERESTING HOW I DON'T FEEL
ANY ATTRACTION TO
THE QUEEN...



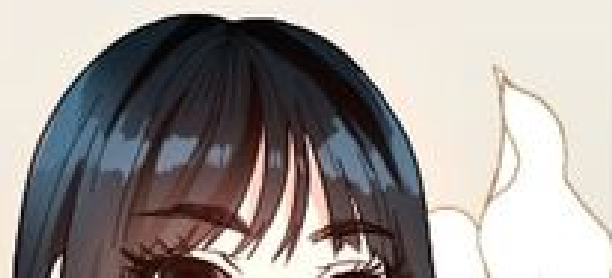
...OR
ANY OLDER WOMAN
FOR THAT MATTER,
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE IN
THE SAME AGE RANGE I WAS
BEFORE I DIED.

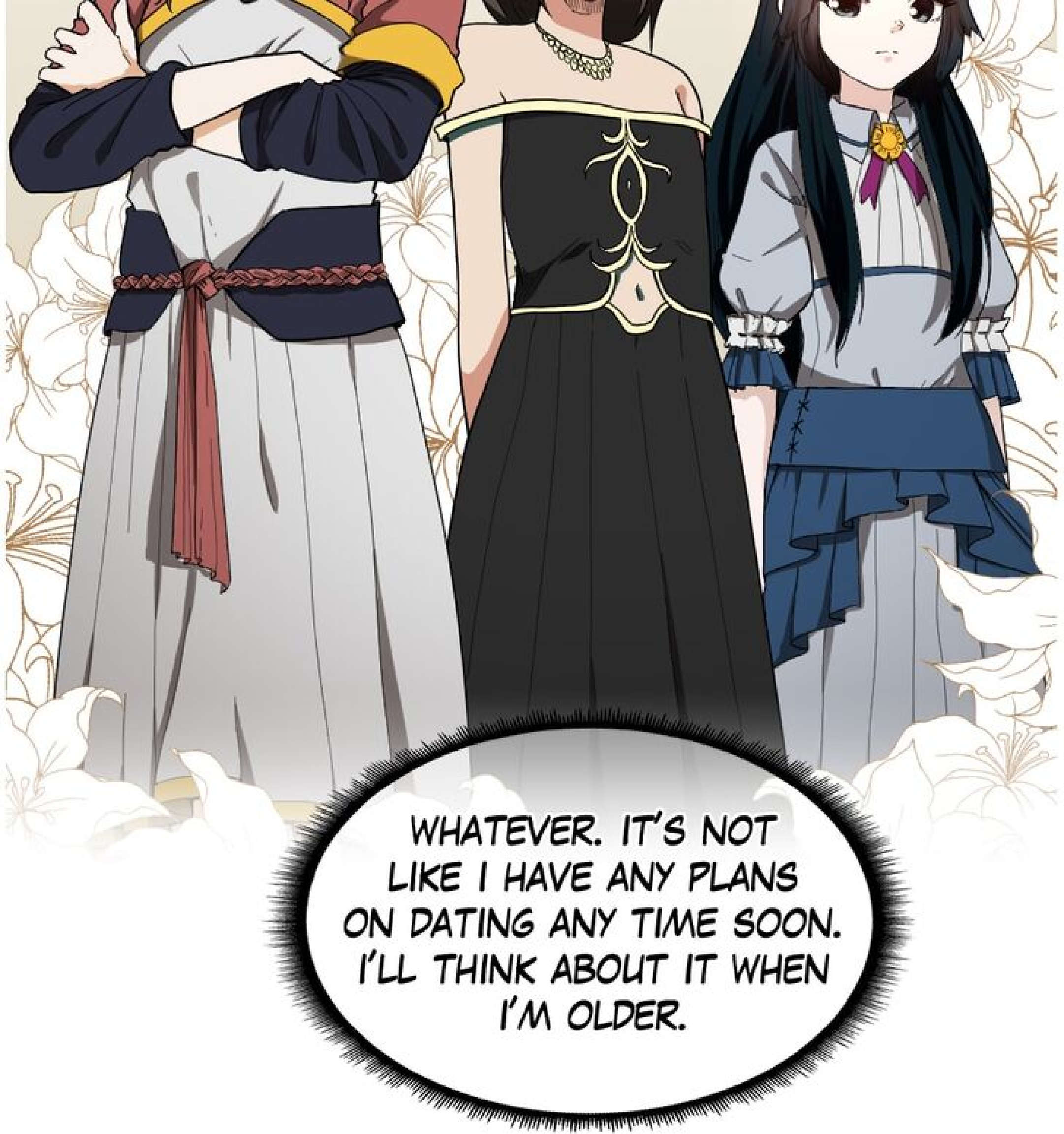


IT MIGHT BE
BECAUSE THEY'RE MY
MOTHER'S AGE...



BUT IT'S NOT
LIKE I FIND YOUNGER GIRLS
ATTRACTIVE EITHER...





WHATEVER. IT'S NOT
LIKE I HAVE ANY PLANS
ON DATING ANY TIME SOON.
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT WHEN
I'M OLDER.



SHUT UP
SYLVIE

GYUGYU—

PSST,
ARTHUR!



A SWORD IS UP
FOR AUCTION RIGHT NOW.
TELL ME IF YOU WANT IT
SO I CAN PUT IN MY
BID.

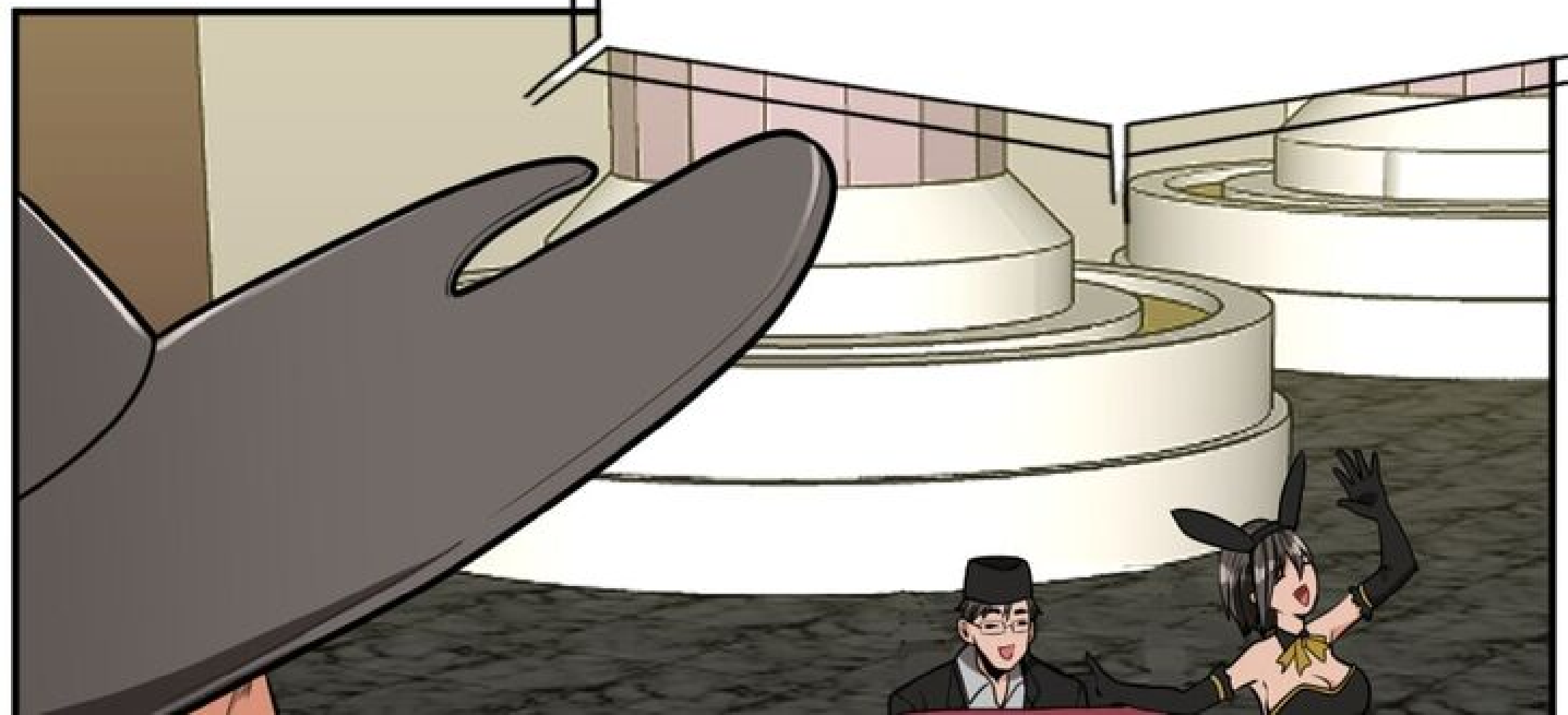
AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE PRICE.
PERKS OF BEING THE OWNER OF
THIS PLACE!

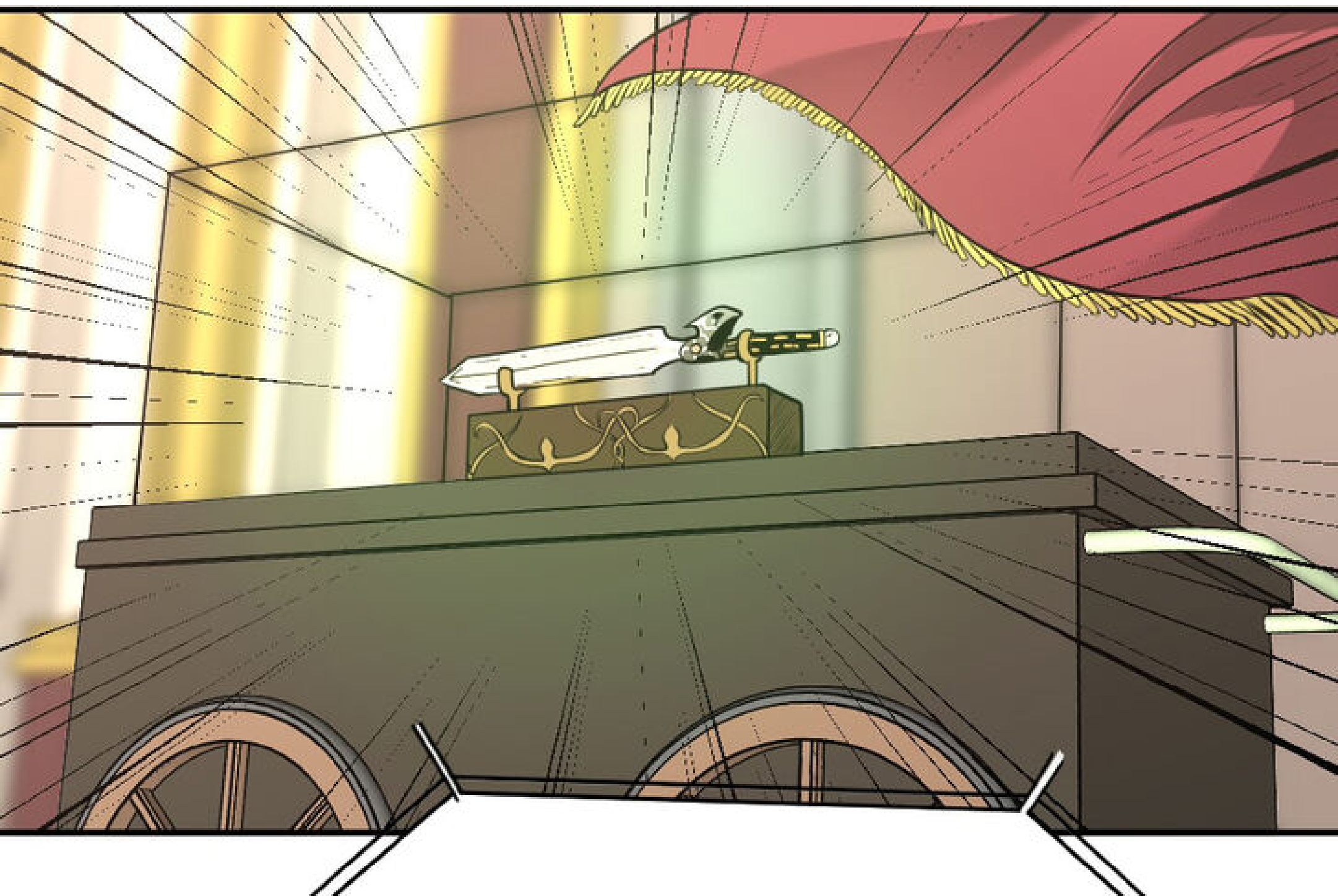




THIS SHORTSWORD WAS
FORGED BY A MASTERSMITH WHO
IS ALSO A FIRE ARTIFICER!

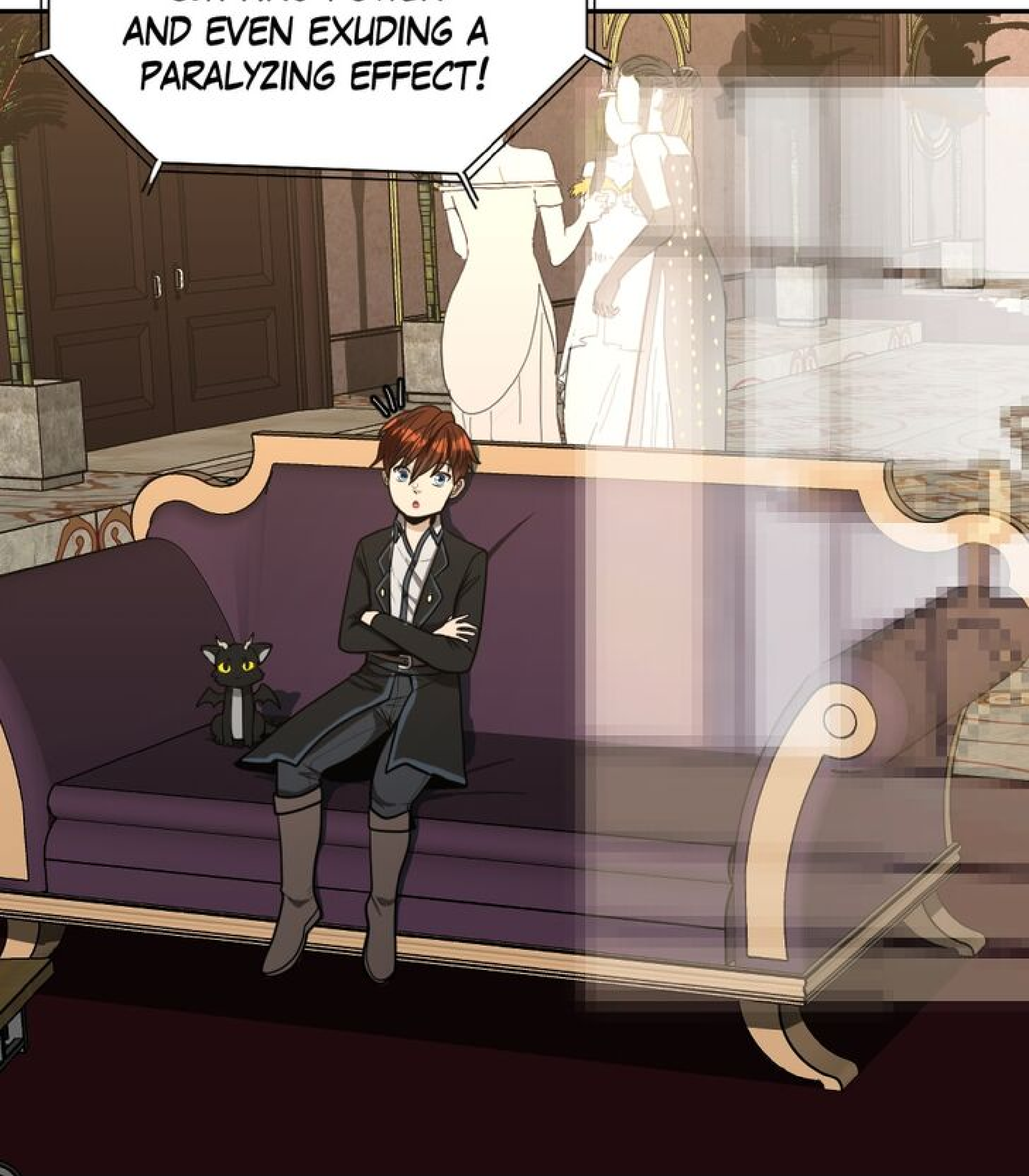
IMBUED ABOVE THE HANDLE
IS THE CORE OF A MIGHTY
THUNDER HAWK!





REINFORCING THIS MASTERFUL SWORD
WITH JUST A BIT OF MANA WILL PRODUCE
CURRENTS OF ELECTRICITY AROUND
THE EDGE OF ITS BLADE

ENHANCING ITS
CUTTING POWER
AND EVEN EXUDING A
PARALYZING EFFECT!



THE BIDDING WILL
START AT FIFTY GOLD!

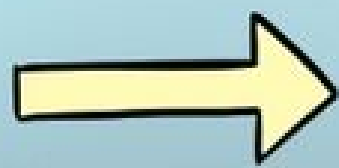
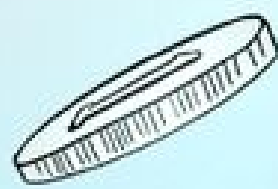
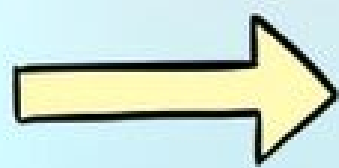




A MODEST HOUSE IN XYRLUS
COULD FETCH AT LEAST A SINGLE
GOLD COIN



BUT AN AVERAGE FAMILY
BACK IN MY HOMETOWN OF ASHBER
COULD LIVE JUST FINE ON A HANDFUL
OF COPPER COINS A DAY.



JUST THE OPENING BID
FOR THIS SWORD COULD PROVIDE
A MODEST LIVING FOR A FAMILY
FOR OVER TWO HUNDRED
FIFTY YEARS.



CRAZY--

SO?
IS IT TO YOUR LIKING?
I KNOW IT'S A LITTLE BIG NOW BUT
A SWORD WITH AN ELEMENTAL
ABILITY IS HARD TO COME BY.

IT SOUNDS LIKE
A POWERFUL WEAPON
BUT...



NOT SOMETHING I NEED.
I'D PREFER SOMETHING A
LITTLE LESS UNIQUE.

YEAH, I THOUGHT SO.



WHY PLAY WITH A SPARK
WHEN YOU CAN WIELD LIGHTNING
ITSELF, RIGHT?



ANYWAY, THIS IS JUST
THE BEGINNING, AND EVEN IF YOU DON'T
FIND ANYTHING YOU LIKE...

I MANAGED
TO FIND ALL OF THE OTHER
ITEMS YOU WANTED.



WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?
EVEN THE COAT I GOT YOU
IS MADE FROM A NIGHTMARE FOX!
IT HAS THE ABILITY TO OBSCURE
YOUR PRESENCE FROM
UNSUSPECTING EYES.

IT SEEMED LIKE
SOMETHING YOU WOULD



SOMETHING YOU WOULD
WANT SO I SNATCHED IT
WHILE I COULD.

HAHA!

THAT'S MORE
THAN I HAD HOPED
FOR!

JUST STAY SAFE.
I'M THE ONE WHO'LL HAVE TO DEAL
WITH YOUR FAMILY IF ANYTHING HAPPENS
TO YOU, YOU KNOW.



VINCENT WAS RIGHT.
THE SWORD WAS ONLY
THE BEGINNING.





THERE WERE MORE
WEAPONS AND EVEN
SEVERAL BEAST CORES
RANGING FROM C-CLASS
ALL THE WAY TO
A-CLASS.



THE KING
HIMSELF BID ON A FEW
OF THEM, WINNING AN A-CLASS
BEAST CORE.

100





BUT IT WOULDN'T BE UNTIL ITS
RECIPIENT ACTUALLY ABSORBED
THE CORE THAT THEY WOULD LEARN
WHETHER OR NOT THE CORE
CONTAINED A BEAST WILL.

WHEN IS THE
INTERMISSION COMING
UP?

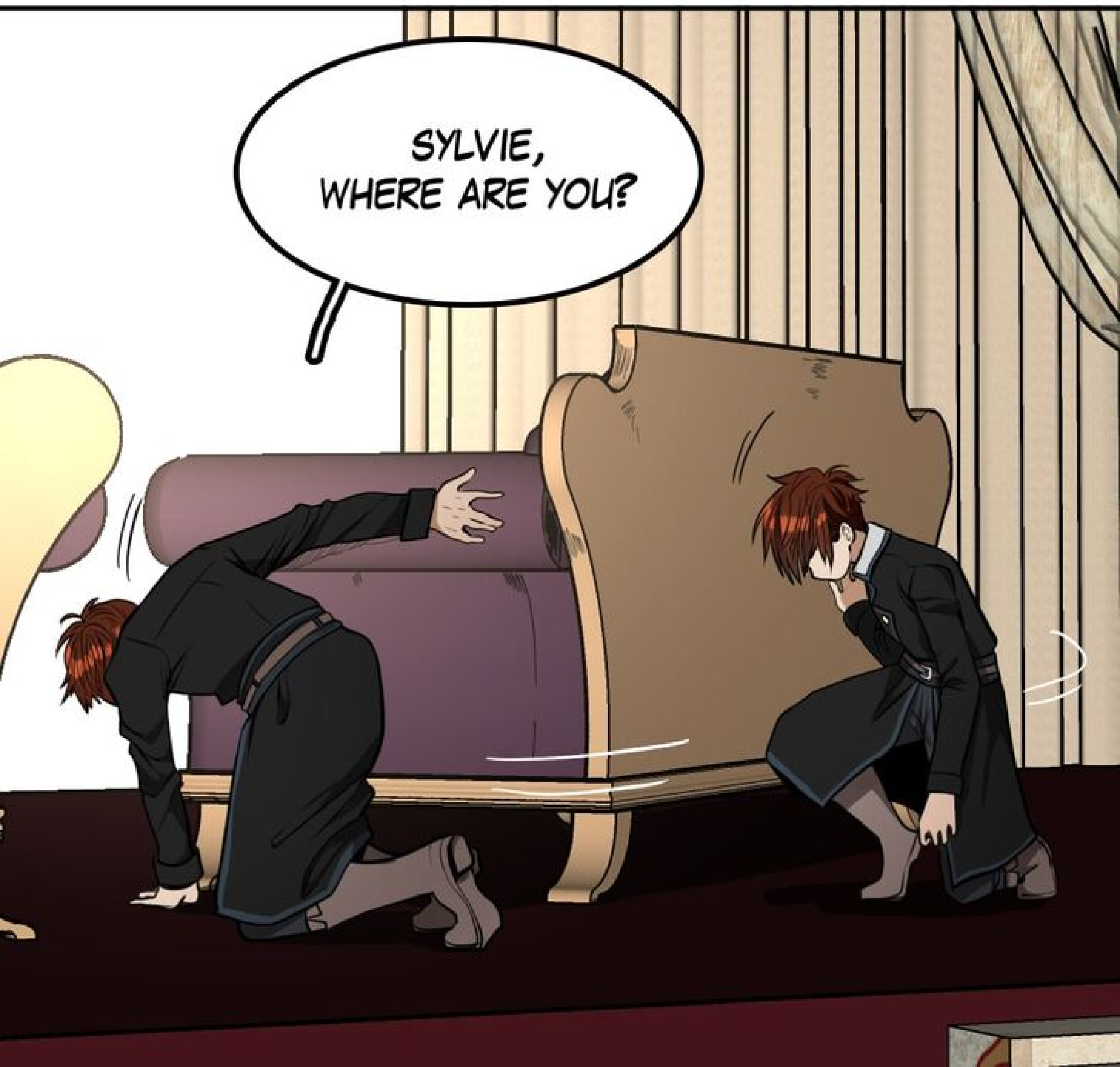


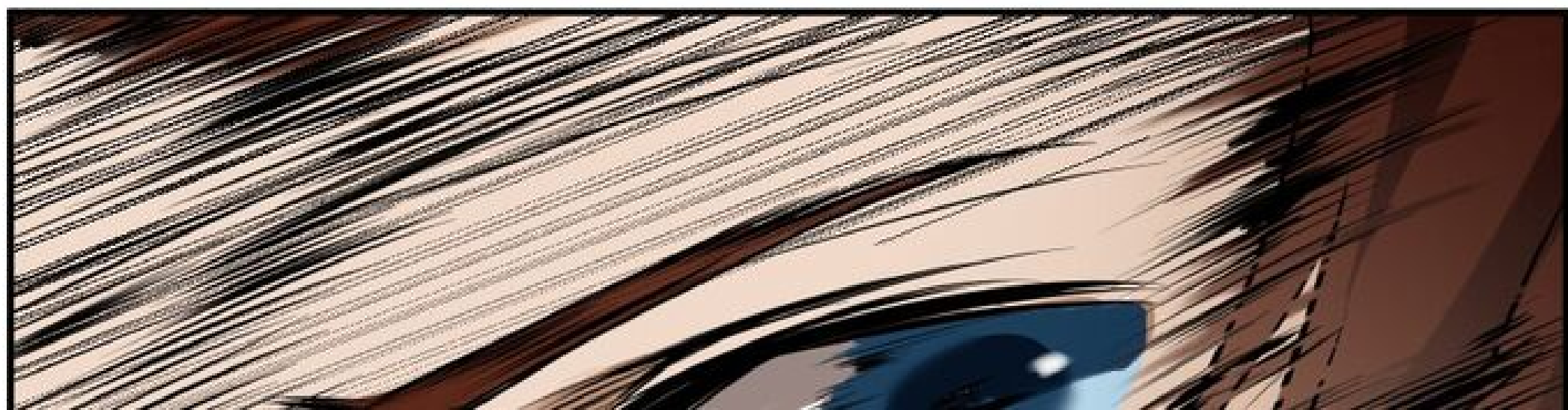


HMM?
WHERE DID SHE
WANDER OFF TO?

DO YOU KNOW
WHERE SYLVIE IS?









WHAT
THE?!



GYUU--



COME HERE,
LITTLE GIRL~

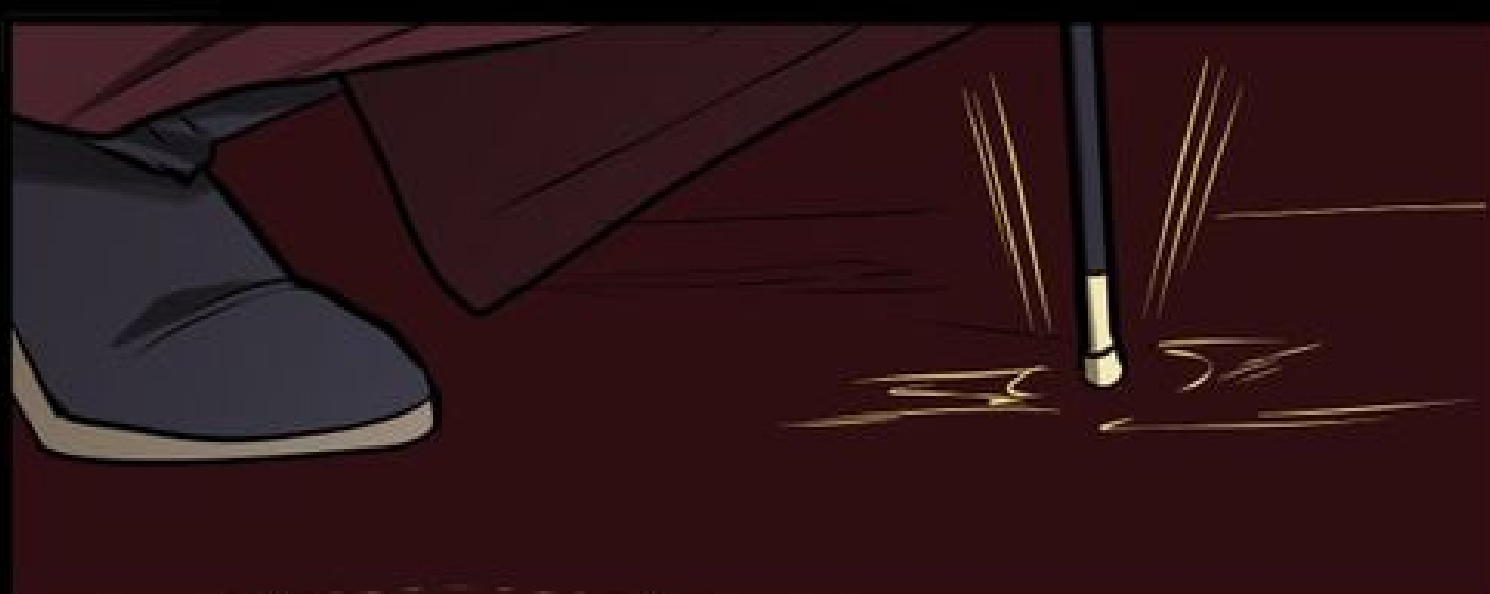






KYUU!

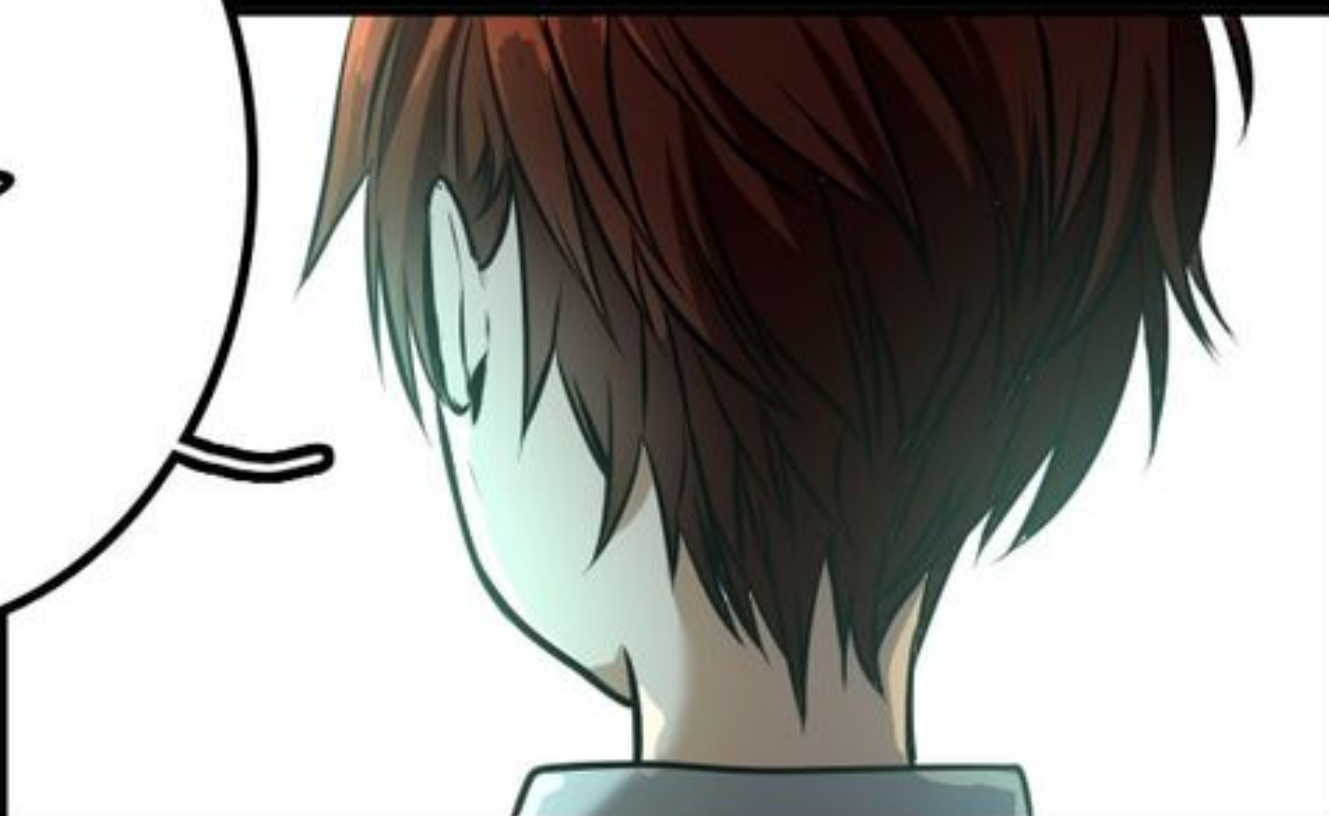
CONTROL YOURSELF,
ARTHUR. HE'S THE ROYAL
FAMILY'S COURT MAGE.



A COUNTRYSIDE
COMMONER HAS NO PLACE
FROLICKING AROUND WITH SUCH
A SPECIAL BEAST.



WHAT?





I'M SAYING
THAT...



SHE

WILL BE

MINE.









